



Atorney's Docket No. 8675-5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Harris  
Appl. No.: 09/404,245  
Filed: September 22, 1999  
For: SPLITTABLE MULTICOMPONENT ELASTOMERIC FIBERS

Group Art Unit: 1771  
Examiner: Befumo, J

August 14, 2001

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 14, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 through 16 without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of divisional applications thereon.

17. (Amended) A fiber bundle comprising a plurality of elastomeric microfilaments and a plurality of plastically deformed non-elastomeric microfilaments which are more bulked than said elastomeric microfilaments, said elastomeric and non-elastomeric microfilaments originating from a common multicomponent fiber having elastomeric and non-elastomeric components, wherein said elastomeric polymer has a solubility parameter ( $\delta$ ) sufficiently different from said non-elastomeric polymer so that said elastomeric component and said non-elastomeric component split upon thermal activation and further wherein the weight ratio of the non-elastomeric microfilaments within the fiber bundle is substantially identical to the weight ratio of the non-elastomeric component within the multicomponent fiber.

PATENT

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